

Feast of the Holy Family

Today, as part of the Octave of Christmas, we celebrate the Holy Family.

Why do we hold them in such esteem, and consider them such a model for ourselves?

Some would readily say, “Well, the Holy Family is Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!”

Which it is, but don’t let that answer be said in the sense of the superhuman club; that’s something I’ve mentioned in a few homilies over this past year when we think of and speak of the saints - remember not to make them into superhumans, a group somehow better than we can be instead of understanding the category as one we are meant to reach and work toward.

Each member of the Holy Family had a human nature, meaning they were subject to the same movements of human life that we are, from its joys to its sorrows.

They are such a model precisely because of how they chose to live in those moments of human life. They chose the model they did because their faith was not rules but ways - their faith was a way of living.

We like to bend rules, or break them, or see how we can get around them, because our fallen human nature, and probably the nature of this nation from its founding, is rebellion.

When we view our faith and beliefs in the same light, that is, as rules, we will feel it as a burden we are saddled with, and try to get around said rules or ignore them. But when the Faith moves from being rules to a way of life, a way of living, then our view of it and our living of it changes.

For Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, our ancestors in the Faith, following God and living his directives and statutes was not rules - it was a way of life.

And in living this way of life, they grew in wisdom and favor before God, and became the models of life that we rejoice in today and hold as examples to follow.

When living all of our Faith moves from rules to a way of life, you will be astounded at how much you will come to have the likeness of each member of the Holy Family.